THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The State Government of Assam has informed that no major erosion has been observed at Umanand Island, which is located in the Brahmaputra river near Guwahati.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Private funding for Inter-linking of rivers

2161. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invite private participation for funding the massive project to inter-link rivers announced recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the modalities to invite private participation have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of progress made by the task force constituted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force *inter-alia* include to provide guidance on modalities for project funding etc. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action-Plan by 31st July 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.